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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Republic of Indonesia

SUBJECT Status of Women/Strength of Family Unit/Check on Identification Card

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1. The group to reckon with in Indonesia is the women. Those who have high office in government and in education are outstandingly more intelligent than the men, and have a better grasp of the political and economic situation. Even the average Indonesian woman shows more interest in education than most men, learns more rapidly, and is a more industrious worker. I am making this comparison not only with the men of

will ever become a matriarchate but the day could conceivable come when the women will be in control there. It isn't that they are career-minded, or believe in the advancement of women for its own sake. They are ambitious not for themselves but for the sake of their children's future.

2. In Indonesia the family unit is extremely strong. More children receive their education in the home than in the schools, not alone because there are so few schools but because the parents are interested in teaching their children everything they know. The same holds true for medical care. There are not enough hospitals and doctors, we know, but there is no resorting to quackery or witch doctoring. Each mother is "doctor" for her own family, but is aware of her lack of knowledge and eager to learn more and better methods of caring for her children. Everywhere I went, I saw babies. It seemed as if every girl over 12 years of age was either pregnant or was carrying a small child, yet I didn't have the feeling that they would have had it otherwise, or that they bear children for religious reasons, or that they don't know any better. They love their children, - and it's a very happy atmosphere.

3. In this connection I am speaking of those Indonesians who are not Moslems. In this latter group are the fanatics, those bound by innumerable religious laws and customs. Although they are a power and a terror, they are not the most important group in Indonesia.

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